

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
retrieving data by one of a plurality of personal content directors each associated with a separate local domain, the data including a plurality of relative links;
translating the plurality of relative links by one of the plurality of personal content directors into a corresponding plurality of absolute links that collectively point to the local domains associated with at least two of the plurality of personal content directors, each absolute link directing a corresponding relative link to a local domain by further including a domain name;
downloading content including the plurality of absolute links to a client; and
determining a most proximate local domain for a client based on subsequent accesses to download data accessible by selection of through the absolute links of the downloaded content.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining of the most proximate local domain, comprises:
transmitting the data to the client;
measuring return trip time values by the plurality of personal content directors during the downloading of the data accessible through the absolute links; and
reporting the return trip time values by at least two of the personal content directors to the one of the plurality of personal content directors.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein prior to reporting the return trip time trip values, the method further comprising:
storing the return trip time values in a client network cache of each of the plurality of personal content directors.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to retrieving the data, the method further comprises:

initiating a HTTP GET request by the client; and

routing the HTTP GET request to the one of the plurality of personal content directors.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the routing of the HTTP GET request is conducted by a domain name server.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the measuring of the return trip time values by a first personal content director of the plurality of personal content directors includes computing a time difference between arrival of a HTTP GET request associated with a subsequent access to the first personal content director and arrival of a final acknowledgement packet at the first personal content director.

7. (Currently Amended) A personal content director comprising:
an interface;
a memory; and
a processor in communication with both the interface and the memory, the processor to
(i) retrieve a web page including a plurality of relative links in response to an initial request by a client, and (ii) translate the plurality of relative links into a corresponding plurality of absolute links with a first absolute link pointing to a first local domain different from a local domain associated with the personal content director and a second absolute link pointing to a second local domain different from the local domain associated with the personal content director and the first local domain, the first absolute link directing a first relative link of the plurality of relative links to a local domain by further including the first local domain name and the second absolute link directing a second relative link of the plurality of relative links to a local domain by further including the second local domain name, (iii) calculating a return trip time (RTT) value based on subsequent selection of an absolute link pointing to the local domain of the personal content director, and (iv) reporting the RTT value to a second personal content director that controls redirection of subsequent Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) GET requests.

8. (Original) The personal content director of claim 7, wherein the memory includes a client network cache to store an Internet Protocol (IP) address and subsequently measured return trip time (RTT) values for each local domain.

9. (Original) The personal content director of claim 7, wherein the processor measures a return trip time (RTT) value experienced during a downloading of data associated with an absolute link pointing to the local domain.

10. (Original) The personal content director of claim 9, wherein the processor further transmits the measured RTT value to a synchronizing personal content director.

11. (Original) The personal content director of claim 9, wherein the processor further receives at least one measured RTT value from another remotely located personal content director during a communication session.

12. (Original) The personal content director of claim 9, wherein the return trip time value is measured by computing a time difference between (1) an arrival of a HTTP GET request that caused retrieval of data associated with the absolute link of the web page pointing to the local domain of the personal content director and (2) arrival of a final acknowledgement packet at the personal content director.

13. (Currently Amended) A network comprising:
a client to transmit a request for retrieval of a web page; and
at least two personal content directors (PCDs) capable of being in communication with the client, a first PCD of the at least two PCDs to (i) retrieve the web page having a plurality of relative links, (ii) translate the relative links associated with the web page into corresponding absolute links that uniquely point to local domains associated with both of the at least two PCDs where each absolute link directing a corresponding relative link of the plurality of relative links to a local domain by further including a domain name, (iii) transmit the translated web page to the client, and (iv) measure a return trip time (RTT) value for handling a request to download data accessed by the absolute link directed to the local domain associated with the first PCD, and

(v) receive the RTT value measured by a second PCD for use in redirection of subsequent request for content by the client.

14. (Original) The network of claim 13, wherein a second PCD of the further measures a RTT value for handling a request to download data accessed by the absolute link directed to the local domain associated with the second PCD.

15. (Original) The network of claim 13, wherein the RTT value is measured by computing a time difference between (1) an arrival of the request to download data and (2) arrival of a final acknowledgement packet at the first PCD.

16. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 13 further comprising:
a domain name server to receive an initial request for retrieval of the web page and to route the initial request to the first PCD operating as a synchronizing PCD.

17. (Original) The network of claim 14, wherein the second PCD of the at least two PCDS transmits the RTT value measured by the second PCD to the first PCD.

18. (Original) The network of claim 17, wherein the first PCD determines a most proximate local domain to the client by comparing the RTT values measured by the at least two PCDs and selected the most proximate local domain being the local domain associated with one of the at least two PCDs measuring a RTT value with the shortest duration.

19. (Original) The network of claim 13, wherein each the plurality of absolute links translated by the first PCD are tagged links including a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) tag.

20. (Original) The network of claim 19 further comprising:
a switching device coupled to the at least two PCDs and in communication with the client, the switching device to detect the URL tag within the request to indicate that the request is intended for measuring the RTT value.